Highlights
- **Pentecost Sunday, page 2**
- **AMEN House Summer Schedule, page 4**

Inside
- **Session Highlights, page 5**
- **Under the Oak Tree, page 6**

Oak Hill News

No. 06 JUNE 2022 Volume 72

With Jesus as our guide and community as our goal, we worship, love, serve and grow.

A Message from Pastor Alan

Dear Oak Hill Friends,

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

". . . And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? . . .—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'" (Acts 2:1-13)

Yes, what does this mean? We read the story of what happened on Pentecost every year. We hear again how the Holy Spirit comes in power to fulfill in the followers of Jesus the mighty work God did in his life and death and resurrection and ascension. God's power, the power at work in Jesus, is now working in them.

Notice, though, that the power of the Spirit works *through their diversity*. The *divided* tongues of fire give to each of the apostles the ability to speak in *different* languages. Of course there is just *one* message being spoken, about "God's deeds of power." But that one message will be heard in many diverse ways. This is a foreshadowing of how the Spirit will work in the church, as Paul will recognize it: "Now there are *varieties* of gifts, but the *same* Spirit; and there are *varieties* of services, but the *same* Lord; and there are *varieties* of activities, but it is the *same* God who activates all of them in everyone. To *each* is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the *common* good." (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, emphasis added)

We can conclude from the Scripture, I think, that God wills that Christ's followers live in unity, but that the unity God wills is a unity in diversity. Not everyone is the same – and that's O.K. We differ in various ways, but we are all one in the Lord.

We might even say (and I do say!) that our unity in diversity is rooted in God's own being: God is One, and God is Three. The oneness of God is not a static, undifferentiated oneness, but rather a dynamic life of love among the Persons of the Holy Trinity. The oneness-in-difference for which God created us, and created the world, is meant to reflect God's own nature. There is a reason why the Sunday after the Day of Pentecost is Trinity Sunday.

In the light of Pentecost and Trinity, what are we to make of the rejection of American diversity by those who claim, or imply, that only people who come from one particular part of the world and are of the same race can truly be Americans? Some are denying today that diversity can be a source of strength for a community. I suggest that no one who takes the New Testament seriously can agree with them.

Your Oak Hill amigo,
Alan Meyers

WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

By Matt Hanify

Worship

Welcome to Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, located on the corner of Oak Hill and Connecticut. We feature ample parking to the west of the building, and we are within walking distance of Tower Grove Park, along with Hartford Coffee, the London Tea Room, and South City Scooters. We are glad to see you. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday worship, in person or on Zoom (meeting ID 768 992 383)

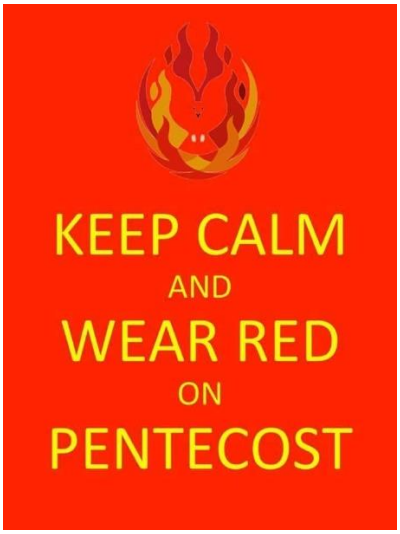
COVID-19 protocols

Our COVID-19 committee (of course there's a committee) continues to monitor our current pandemic numbers. Our city has returned to "normal" in many different ways, but COVID-19 has certainly not gone away. Therefore, we are asking (not demanding) worship participants to continue to observe pandemic protocols: maintaining physical distance, wearing masks, washing hands, etc. Masks are available near entrances to the sanctuary, as is hand sanitizer. But, most importantly, welcome.

Communion

Communion will be celebrated on the Day of Pentecost, June 5. Our curated menu features two specials. First is a small, individual cup of juice that features a portion of communion bread in the lid (better value for your communion dollar), and our second option is an hourglass-shaped goblet that contains much smaller portions of bread and juice (the more convenient option of the two). You are also welcome – encouraged, even – to bring your own communion materials from home.

We also offer in-home Communion for our extended members. Please let us know if one of our extended members would like Communion in their home, and we can schedule a time. Please reach out to Pastor Alan or someone on our committee.



June 5

Volunteering

We are in almost perpetual need of volunteers at various positions: greeters, liturgists, nursery caregivers (this last job features a bit of extra paperwork, but we are happy to walk you through that), Sunday School leaders, etc. Please let one of us know, or you can sign up on the website, oakhillpcusa.com (the "Worship" tab has an orange box that contains a Sign-up Genius link).

Sunday School

Sunday school is taking a break for the summer. We want to thank Lisa Thompson, Sarah Gibson, the Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers, Donna Cook, Deb Wiethop, and all the other volunteers for their leadership and teaching this year, and we look forward to starting Sunday school up again in September.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible study will be reading *Paul Among the People*, by Sarah Ruden. This book explores Paul's writings in the context of his time and culture to recover original messages of freedom and love.

Wednesday Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays on Zoom (meeting ID 259 777 226; password Disciple)

EVANGELISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Stephanie Hoegger

E & M met on May 2. We discussed plans for summer activities, member care concerns, and a special May birthday outing.

On Sunday May 15, churchgoers were invited to surprise Oak Hill's beloved member, Mel Soles, to celebrate his 103rd birthday. Folks gathered outside his home after the worship service to give their well-wishes. We enjoyed brown bag lunches and a time of fellowship outside. We hope Mel had a wonderful day!

Curious to know more about Oak Hill? Please join us for a casual gathering on June 12, immediately after the worship service! Find out more about who we are, what we believe, and what it means to become a member at Oak Hill. A light lunch will be provided! This event is open to everyone. Please RSVP to Sandy Kay at 314-249-2729 or sandymariekay@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

We are currently planning fun events for the summer. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming weekly announcements!

E & M's next meeting will be on Monday, June 6.

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

By Donna Cook

Prepare yourself for **Summer Excitement!** Mark your calendar for these dates!

Monday, June 20 and Monday August 1 you are invited to attend a fun evening of Team Building Games and Activities with Clayton Delany (our friend from the former Great American Human Foosball). Bring your family and friends, your own dinner, and beverages to the Blackhawk Shelter at Jefferson Barracks Park. We'll be there from 6:30 - 8:30 PM (dusk). Game Time starts at 7 PM. Enter the park through the South Broadway Entrance, turn down the road towards the Lemay Pavilion. The Blackhawk Shelter will be on your right before the Pavilion, near the Disc Golf Course.

So, why are we having an event in Jefferson Barracks Park, you might ask? Our mission teams at AMEN St. Louis. this summer will be working on Monday mornings at a location near that park. We booked the shelter for the teams to have lunch and enjoy some Disc Golf before heading back to AMEN House for Service Learning Time. (Ok, we were trying to desperately fill the schedule, post pandemic, without the assistance of a Director and Pastor.) Anyway, we had to book for the entire day. In the meantime, we were trying to find a way to work with Clayton this summer. The time we spent each week with him for 5 summers, pre-pandemic, at the Morgan Ford location played a big part of our week and we were trying to fill that "spiritual" hole in our program. Easy to get to and a lovely shady location. Deer and baby fawns graze in the area. (Hey! We're Christians without borders.) Two problems solved, one solution.

You are invited every week from 7PM - 8:30 PM when we have a group this summer. Just like our foosball nights of the past, we wanted to include church family, friends, and neighbors. June 20 and August 1 are weeks we booked but the groups decided to transfer their weeks to 2023. So, it would be exclusive to our Oak Hill Community. While it might be a lot to come every week, mark your calendars for the June 20 and August 1. **Not to be missed!**

https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/parks/places/jefferson-barracks-park/location-maps/park-map/

Just who is coming to stay in our exclusive accommodations at AMEN House this summer? Here's our roster for 2022.

June 5-11 - Fox Valley Presbyterian Church, Geneva, Illinois
June 12-18 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
June 20 - We will host an Oak Hill event this evening in the park.
June 26-July 1 Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Illinois
July 10-16 First United Methodist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
July 17-23 Highland Oaks Church of Christ, Dallas, Texas
August 1 - We will host an Oak Hill event this evening in the park.
August 7-10 McKinley Presbyterian Church, Champaign, Illinois

Our teams will be working at **Lydia's House, New Roots Urban Farms, Red Circle** (Urban Farm)**, St. Louis Area Food Bank, and Isaiah 58 Ministries**. Our own Dena Roper will be facilitating the groups in cooking sessions and sandwich prep for Tent Mission STL Summer Outreach. We'll also have presentations from Rebecca Girresch on issues impacting St. Louis relating to Systemic Racism. Participants will also be given the option of viewing and discussing the films **Race: the power of an illusion,** Episode 3 - The House We Live In; **The Color of Medicine**: The Story of Homer G. Phillips Hospital; **Just Mercy;** and **The Hate You Give.** Donna Cook will be available to facilitate the discussions. If you're interested in hanging out at the Urban Farms with the groups sometime, let us know, we'll give you the details. We look forward to hanging out with Millie and Lucie Crittenden this summer, who will be our Summer Team Leaders.

AMEN House Supply Needs (List #1)
13-gallon rash bags
39-gallon trash bags
Lysol/Clorox wipes
toilet paper
paper towels
toilet bowl cleaner
all purpose spray cleaner
sponges/brushes for cleaning shower.
dish soap
dish scrubbies
hand / kitchen towels
dish cloths
reusable shopping bags (to try to discourage the bag build up that inevitably occurs by August)
non aerosol air freshener
room deodorizers

Your Isaiah 58 Ministries Shopping List (A/K/A List #2)

June 2022
5th - Tuna or canned veggies
12th - Coffee or Tea
19th - Diapers - preferred sizes 5, 6, 4T, 5T, 6T or baby wipes
26th - Oatmeal

July 2022
3rd - Peanut Butter
10th - Salt Free Seasoning
17th - Dish Soap
24th - Sardines
31st - Toilet Paper

Thanks to everyone for your continued support. All of your in-kind gifts and monetary donations are welcome! Here's a monthly listing of suggested donations from Isaiah 58 Ministries. We make up our list from their suggested items. https://i58ministries.org/bag-of-blessings/. You can donate through the church's giving portal or Isaiah 58's website, as well.

MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Don't forget Go-Bags are available. Thank you for your support for the Mission & Justice projects and programs here at Oak Hill.

Thanks to everyone who was able to help on our workday May 22. Lots of AMEN Support work was completed! Your help was most appreciated.

STEWARDSHIP AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

By Brian Heuckroth

Stewardship and Property had a productive workday for the building and grounds on May 22.

- The Secretary's office has a new AC/Heater unit.
- Many areas that had water leak damage were cleaned.
- The AMEN House windows were repaired where there was squirrel damage.
- The kitchen tiles loosened by a past water leak were glues back down.
- The Theleos Room AC unit had its wooden framing restored.
- An AMEN House AC unit has been ordered and will be installed as soon as it arrives.
- A big THANK YOU to Josh, Don, Mike, and Brian B. for helping on these!

We are finalizing a "Building Use Policy" to help guide church personnel when approached by members and outside groups to use the property for various purposes. We hope to be ready to present this within 1-2 months to Session for approval and are gathering information to guide the policy now.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following action was approved by Session in their May 1, 2022, Called Session Meeting:

Session approved a proposed Terms of Call for the Rev. Wanda Lawry to serve as Oak Hill's Transitional (Interim) Pastor. The effective date is estimated to be around the first of August.

The following actions were reported or approved by Session in their May 11, 2022, Stated Session Meeting:

Average Worship attendance in person and via Zoom in April was 57.

Membership as of April 30, 2022, was 95.

Session said worship will continue to follow the same guidelines for in-person worship. Plans are still being made to survey the congregation about how they feel about our guidelines for reopening the church.

The following information was provided to Session following the May 11, 2022, Stated Session Meeting:

Financial Reports for April and Year-to-Date 2022

	April	2022 YTD Total
Income		
Actual	$30,526.67	$71,457.23
Budgeted	$12,080.00	$44,340.00
Over (Under) Budget	$18,446.67	$27,117.23
Expenses		
Actual	$7,554.92	$53,972.43
Budgeted	$16,966.37	$59,109.03
Over/(Under) Budget	($9,411.45)	($5,136.60)
Net Revenue/(Loss)	$7,873.99	$17,484.80

BOOK CLUBS

Oak Hill Book Club

Book club will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, at the Barrow residence. We will discuss *"My Sister, the Serial Killer"* by Oyinkan Braithwaite. This darkly comedic novel explores the lives of a Nigerian nurse and her younger, possibly sociopathic sister. Please bring your dinner and join us.

You may join by Zoom about 7 p.m.: 259 777 226 Password: Disciple (case sensitive).

Wednesday Touchy Topics Book Club

The Touchy Topics book club meets Wednesday, June 1. The book this month is *Rising Out of Hatred: the Awakening of a Former White Nationalist,* by Eli Saslow. In this book, Saslow, winner of the Pulitzer in 2014, tells the story of Derek Black, a man who grew up at the epicenter of white nationalism, then came to disavow everything he had been taught to believe. For July, the group will read Lisa Jewell's *The House We Grew Up In,* a novel that explores the Bird family, from a picture-perfect cottage life in a Cotswolds village to an Easter weekend tragedy that gradually tears the family apart.

Touchy Topics Book Club, Wednesday, June 1, at 7:00 on Zoom (contact the church via Facebook for the link).

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle 3 will meet on the fourth Thursday of June (June 23) and July (July 28) instead of our usual meeting day (the third Thursday). Please bring a sandwich. Salad, chips, dessert, coffee and iced tea will be provided.

We are still working on our handcrafted blue hats for Hat Not Hate! They are due on Thursday, July 28. Please give them to Dena Roper any Sunday between now and then! The plan is to continue this project, so if you're not finished, we will collect them again next year! Please contact Dena for additional information!

CRAFT CLUB

Craft Night

Craft night will be on Zoom on Friday, June 17, at 7:00 p.m. Join us with your current project or just to visit! Zoom meeting is 823 1780 8360 password: Disciple. Contact Dena Roper with any questions!

Under the Oak Tree

Congratulations to our own Jody Sowell who was named President of the Missouri Historical Society (MHS) effective July 11, 2022. The MHS operates the museum, the MHS Library and Research Center, and the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum.
Jody and his wife, Shannon, and their two daughters, Savannah and Vienna, have been part of the Oak Hill family since 2004.

Vienna Sowell (Sophie's preferred name) graduated from Lindbergh High School in May and will attend Iowa State University in the fall where she plans to study Apparel Marketing & Design and Entrepreneurship.

A framed certificate recognizing the 125th anniversary of Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in 2020 has been presented to the church by the History Team of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. The certificate is hanging in the Faith and Fellowship Room next to the sanctuary.

Scenes from Oak Hill

Mel Soles' 103rd Birthday

Mel Soles

May 22 Church Workday

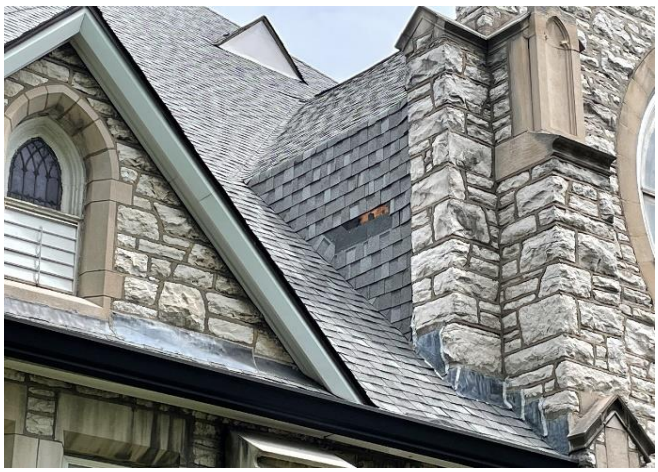
(Before)

(After)

Before)

(After)

Before



After

Bible Readings for the Month

LECTIONARY FOR JUNE

Sunday, June 5 Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 *or* Gen. 11:1-9 *and Psalm 104:24-34 35b,* Romans 8:14-17 *or* Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17 (25-27)
Sunday, June 12	Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31 *and Psalm 8;* Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15
Sunday, June 19	1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a *and Psalms 42 and 43*
Sunday, June 26	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 *and Psalm77:1-2, 11-20*

Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
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St. Louis, Missouri 63116-3926 (314) 664-5525

www.oakhillpcusa.org

office@oakhillpcusa.org

We are a welcoming congregation where visitors are always expected!

Christian Education - 9:30 a.m.*
(*on break during the summer, starting 5/29)

Service of Worship
10:30 a.m.

The ministers of Oak Hill Church are its members assisted by:

(Vacant)
Pastor

Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers
"Amicus Ecclesiae"
(Friend of the Church)

Ms. Susan Brown
Minister of Music

Ms. Carole Adams
Secretary

Articles for publication
in the
Oak Hill News
need to be
submitted in writing
to the church office by the
3rd Monday of each month.